



*** Check against delivery ***

29 June 2015

EU-CHINA BUSINESS SUMMIT CLOSING ADDRESS

**MARKUS J. BEYRER,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BUSINESSEUROPE**

Esteemed guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to address you today, at the closing of the 10th EU-China Business Summit, on the milestone 40th Anniversary of EU-China relations.

We had a fruitful day of discussions that allowed us to define new ways to enhance the partnership between the EU and China. This means making better use of existing opportunities but also addressing hurdles that prevent this relation to reach its full potential.

We are encouraged by the clear commitment that we see from political leaders on both sides to develop a stronger partnership in cooperation between EU and China with the support of the business community. We will have to work together to make sure that more EU and Chinese companies, in particular SMEs, benefit from trade and investment in fast growing areas like digital economy or sustainable development.

It is always difficult to make a summary of a full day of discussions especially when they have been so intense and with so many interesting points. So I will focus on a few issues:

1. Creating an enabling environment that facilitates investments is essential. To this end, the completion of an ambitious EU-China Bilateral Investment Agreement is absolutely necessary to enhance the stability and predictability investors need to do business.
2. There are plenty of opportunities yet to be untapped in key areas of the economy. Our companies cannot afford to be left behind in the era of digital revolution and green growth. Promoting further cooperation and joint projects between EU and Chinese companies will allow us to be more competitive and innovative, jointly addressing the challenges of today's complex world.



3. The EU and China should pursue an agenda that enhances trade and investment relations. The conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Agreement is certainly a milestone. However we need to explore other areas where we can work together to reduce existing barriers that prevent our companies from benefiting from existing business opportunities. One of them clearly being Regulatory Cooperation as this has a major impact particularly on SMEs.

This Summit does not end our work and in the months to come we will continue to engage towards achieving a more transparent, reliable and business friendly environment for our companies in close cooperation with other business organisations active in China and in the EU.

As we are approaching the closing of this important event, I would like to thank our co-organisers, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), as well as our partners, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) and the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA), for the excellent co-operation. It has been an intensive preparation, but today's success makes us all particularly happy.

Let me also express my special gratitude to the sponsors of the 10th EU-China Business Summit who with their valuable contributions made this event a success.

But above all, I would like to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your presence here and active participation in the discussions. We look forward to seeing you again in the next edition of the EU-China Business Summit.

This has been a long day and now it is time to relax. So I would like to invite you all to attend the networking reception that closes our event.

Thank you.
